

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

~~Foreign Broadcast Information Service~~
LONDON BUREAU

1978

CONFIDENTIAL

20 August 1948.

To: Acting Chief, FBIB.

From: Chief, London Bureau, FBIS.

Subject: Report of Activities of London Bureau Covering Month Ending
15 August 1948.

I. Implementation of recently proposed plans and policies.

As instructed by Washington, this bureau has prepared five days weekly a special report on Soviet and Eastern European radio reaction to the Danube Conference and internal developments in Yugoslavia. Seventeen of these reports have been prepared and filed both to the U.S. delegation in Belgrade and to Washington.

Concurrently, a special report has been prepared, as material warranted, on Soviet and Eastern European radio reaction to the United Nations Economic and Social Council now meeting in Geneva. These reports have been telegraphed or air mailed to the U.S. delegation to this conference. Full texts of particularly important broadcasts have also been furnished to the U.S. delegation.

Questionnaires for circulation to recipients of regular daily reports prepared by this bureau were received from Washington and forwarded to all clients.

Alien Personal History statements for all native personnel were completed. They will be forwarded to Washington as soon as all photographs are received, and will also be turned over to the local Area Security Officer.

A request was received from OIC, OMGUS, Berlin for coverage over weekends when the report section is not working. This coverage is being provided by the wire desk on top news breaks and commentaries only by dual addressing such items to both Washington and Berlin.

II. Accomplishment of overall mission including firmly established individual objectives.

Serious interference by sunspots with Army Signal Corps radio teletype facilities from Frankfurt to Washington forced a further curtailment of wordage filed during the month. A total of 730,230 words was transmitted (previous month 891,283 words.) Of this only 614,460 words went via the Signal Corps, while wordage transmitted by commercial facilities soared to a total of 115,770.

G-2 EUCOM, OIC OMGUS and ODI OMGUS each received 89,860 words from the report section. A total of 47,870 words was filed to the American Embassy in Paris.

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 138,083 words were relayed to Washington.

III. Proposals for improvement.

The extra burden of supplying two special reports at the same time in addition to the normal activities of this bureau has highlighted the growing acuteness of the personnel situation. The assignment of one additional editor, who could assist the wire desk and also prepare some special reports, would be of considerable value, both in relieving the shortage and increasing the value of the material filed. It has for some time been planned to start a weekly or twice weekly review devoted solely to Soviet home service broadcasts but with present commitments and personnel this idea must remain in abeyance.

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